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## REVIEWS.

*The United States and the States Under the Constitution.* Second edition. By C. Stuart Patterson, with notes and references by Robert P. Reeder. T. & G. W. Johnson, Philadelphia, 1904. Sheep, pages 347.

This work, on the whole, represents that type of the legal text-book, necessarily evolved out of the multiplication of decisions and the closer definition and firmer establishment of principles, which, omitting the expression of individual opinion and critical examination in the light of jurisprudence and comparative law, aims at a clear and concise codification of that which the courts have decreed to be law. That the pursuit of such a purpose alone enables the author to comprise the full content of his subject in a brief work is obvious when we consider that he must treat of the whole of that body of law which deals with regulation of interstate commerce, the protection of contract obligations against state legislation, the mutual relationship between the federal and the state judiciaries, and many kindred topics. Where he has departed from it, as in his discussion of the elements that are involved in estimating the reasonableness of traffic rates, of the scope and advisability of anti-trust legislation, of the correctness of the decisions of the Supreme Court as to the status of our island possessions, we cannot feel that he has added to the value of his work. However, in the fulness of its references, its inclusion of the latest decisions, even to *Dorr v. U. S.*, 195 U. S. 138, its clear but brief statements, it will form a valuable adjunct to the lawyer's library, whether he desires a means of reviewing the principles of constitutional law or an index to the reports.

W. M. M.

*Rood on Wills and Gifts Causa Mortis.* By John R. Rood. Callaghan & Co., Chicago, 1904. Sheep, pages 635.

The subject of wills involves so many fine technicalities that the student, no matter how close his application, finds it almost impossible to keep his mind even reasonably clear while studying a text-book. The tendency of authors too often is to say: "In this case . . . the will was held good," or "Under such and such conditions the will was held invalid," leaving a hazy "every-man-his-own-lawyer" knowledge in the mind of the reader.

Mr. Rood's work has a certain literary and logical tone, which is, it seems to us, invaluable in this particular subject.

Instead of illustrating his principles with long lists of one-line digests of cases in the main text, he relegates them to his notes. The value of the latter is considerably enhanced by the citation of the secondary reports (such as the L. R. A., Am. St. Rep., etc.) whenever the case is so reported. But the text contains historical and literary references, which, although not always valuably pertinent, serve to fix the rules much better than digested decisions.\* The elementary principles of logic, which are usually omitted in books of this kind, tend toward the same end. Altogether the book, though its chief value may lie in its notes, will, from its pronounced rhetorical qualities, interest even a casual law reader. G. S. A.

*The Law of Foreign Corporations and Taxation of Corporations, Both Foreign and Domestic.* By Joseph Henry Beale, Jr., Bussey Professor of Law in Harvard University. William J. Nagel, Boston, 1904. Sheep, pages 1149.

The rapid increase of corporation law in importance and in volume is the necessary outcome of the growth in size and in number of the corporations themselves. Of this growth and increase everyone is conscious, but one's realization is emphasized by one of the signs of the times—the great number of books treating of this branch of the law and of its subdivisions which the publishers are now bringing out. One of the most important recent productions of this nature is Beale on Foreign Corporations, a topic which has not, we believe, been before treated with equal completeness and detail. Professor Beale has planned to furnish a work of reference not merely for the lawyer, but for the layman as well; to this end technicalities are minimized and practical features introduced, of which we may instance the table in the appendix, containing, in the short space of four pages, a summary of the laws of most of the states on some fifteen or twenty of the questions most frequently arising in connection with corporations. Another feature which should not be passed without notice is the comprehensive treatment, in the body of the work, of statutory provisions, English and American, germane to the author's subject, resulting in a completeness otherwise impossible of attainment. The necessity of discussing the taxation of foreign corporations has led the author on, first, to discuss the taxation of corporations in general, and then to take up the general principles of taxation, and thus this subject is dealt with at a length required by practical considerations rather than by the logical scope of the volume.

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\* § 129: " 'Dr. Johnson was confident that he heard the voice of his deceased mother calling his name. . . . The second Lord Littleton was equally persuaded that a divine warning had admonished him of his approaching end. . . . Abercrombie gives instances of an habitual hallucination, which at the same time were consistent with reason.' Many persons of more than ordinary intelligence believe in spiritualism to-day, and such belief is everywhere admitted to be consistent with sanity. It is not even evidence of insanity." See also §§ 127, 171.